



# August Newsletter 2023

## Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to our August Newsletter bringing you up to date with what has been happening here at Toy Box during the month of July and what a busy month it's been!

July is always a very hectic month here at Toy Box. There is such an air of excitement and change throughout the nursery, as some children are getting ready to leave for school and others are moving up a group.

It is also a very emotional time for staff as they watch the children get ready to fly the nest. Several of our Tiggers who left have been with us since they were babies. Naturally, having spent three or four years together, both staff and children become very attached to one another. I think it's fair to say that it's been an emotionally charged couple of weeks.

The last week of term was party week and staff prepared lots of lovely, exciting activities. Despite the excitement, all the usual activities and Book of the Month reading and activities took place on a daily basis. Tiggers had great fun preparing sandwiches for tea for everyone throughout the last week. Now that they've just about all left, the nursery is feeling very quiet and the staff can have a less hectic time before it starts all over again in September.

## Birthdays

We have seven birthdays this month here at Toy Box and I'm sure you will join with us as we wish them all a very Happy Birthday.

Pooh Bears – Natalie 1

Rabbits – Arthur 2

Piglets – Maya 3, Brooke 3

Tiggers – Franklin 4

## Staff member of the month

I have decided that the award for Staff Member of the Month for July should be a joint award this time and it goes to both Kirstie and Charlotte who both work in Tiggers.

Due to staff shortages, they have both had 17 Key children each for which they have had to compile and complete a summative report, ready in time for the children leaving for school.

If your child has had a summative report, I am sure you will agree, that there have been no corners cut and the children have wonderful reports which accurately represent their stage of development as they get ready to start school. They have worked tirelessly throughout the past couple of weeks, combining working in the room with trying to get all the reports ready

on time. Sometimes they were under relentless pressure, but bless their cotton socks, they kept going and completed the task on time.

So, Kirstie and Charlotte, thank you both for all your hard work and dedication. We want you both to know how much we all appreciate your efforts. We are all very proud of you both and want you to know that all your hard work has not gone unrecognised.

Both Kirstie and Charlotte will now receive a £20 gift voucher of their choice.

### **Dates to Remember**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023-----CLOSED bank holiday Monday  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023-----First day of term for funded only children

### **Fees Increase**

In order to attract and retain good, qualified nursery nurses, we have had to implement two pay rises since April. Even with doing this, it has been a huge struggle to attract staff. There are very few nursery nurses around these days, as several have left the sector for higher wages elsewhere. This is not something that just effects Toy Box. Every nursery throughout Doncaster and indeed up and down the country, is having the same problem.

It has been such a hard year for all our long term staff, but thankfully and fingers crossed, we are now over the hump. During severe staff shortage times, staff had to work lots of extra hours and give up their half day off. We now have a full compliment of fully qualified and experienced nursery nurses. We are completely fully staffed and ready to start the new term in September.

We have tried as far as possible to absorb lots of the costs incurred in the second pay rise. Unfortunately, with the best will in the world, we are unable to absorb all the costs involved. So, in order to retain our staff and continuously deploy two fully qualified and experienced nursery nurses in each room, we have no alternative but to increase the fees in September.

Therefore from the 1<sup>st</sup>. of September the fee structure will be as follows.

### **Current fees**

Half day £34.50                      Full day £54.50

### **From September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Half day £36.50                      Full day £56.50

If any parent/carer would like to discuss the fees increase with me or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to either call me or speak to me at pick up time.

## **Missing clothes**

We have recently had a number of items of clothing that have gone missing at nursery. Could I please ask all parent/carers to check if an item of clothing which your child brought home is not theirs. If you do find an item of clothing that does not belong to your child, please return it to nursery.

We totally understand that these things happen quite innocently. If you do find a piece of clothing, or indeed any other item that does not belong to your child, please return it to nursery.

Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly labelled. It certainly will make our life much easier.

## **Reminders Spare Clothes**

Please, can parents/carers remember to bring a spare change of clothes to nursery on a daily basis.

Throughout the course of the day, as well as potty training, the children take part in several wet messy activities. To enable staff to keep the children dry and comfortable, each child needs to have their own spare set of clothing. We constantly use our own "spares" but unfortunately these "spares" are seldom returned to nursery, resulting in our stocks being completely depleted. So please, please, please do not forget to ensure your child/ children come to nursery every day with a sun hat, sun cream and a spare change of clothing.

**And finally.....**

**We wish you all a lovely, happy, peaceful, sunny summer with lots of precious family time together.**

As usual we thank all parents/ carers for your continuing support. Please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

**Kerry, Noreen and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**